

September 18, 1961

Dr. Barton Childs
Department of Pediatrics
Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Barton:

It was a real pleasure to see you here, and I'm only sorry for so short a time. You know well enough how long I have hoped that we might form a close association, and it should hardly be necessary for me to reiterate this again. I am really very hopeful that you will see the merits of coming out to Stanford. I am sure that we both recognize some advantages and disadvantages of your not setting up a completely independent department for your work in human genetics. You can be sure, however, that your substantive ambitions along this line will receive the fullest possible support, not only from Norman and myself, but from all of our principal colleagues at the medical school. I certainly hope that you will take account of this kind of enthusiasm and support in making up your mind. In addition, I honestly do not think that you can find a more appropriate place to set up your work from a scientific standpoint, and I hope that you will give this consideration the priority that it deserves. The joint arrangements between genetics and pediatrics that would be the basis of your program are, to my view, a quite unique opportunity for the progress of genetic research.

We have not wanted to burden you with the obvious, but I hope you will not have neglected to think about the vitality, beauty, integrity, and optimism of the country here, and its people. I find it quite impossible to think of a better setting in which to do constructive academic work. We have found this a wonderful place to live, have enjoyed the companionship of many splendid and friendly people, and hope that you can be moved to reach the same conclusion.

Hopefully yours,

Joshua Lederberg